

REMARKS

Applicants respectfully request favorable reconsideration of this application, as amended.

Applicants acknowledge with appreciation the allowance of Claims 14-18, 22 and 23, and the indication of allowable subject matter in Claims 5-9.

Without acceding to the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103, independent Claims 1, 2 and 3 have been amended to include the allowable subject matter of Claims 9, 5 and 6 (all now cancelled), respectively. Claims 7 and 8 have also been amended to depend from Claims 2 and 3, respectively.

Accordingly, this application is in condition for allowance and should be passed to issue. A Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge to Deposit Account No. 50-1165 any fees under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 and 1.17 that may be required by this paper and to credit any overpayment to that Account. If any extension of time is required in connection with the filing of this paper and has not been requested separately, such extension is hereby requested.

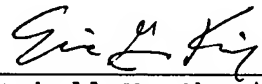
Respectfully submitted,

MWS:EGK

Miles & Stockbridge P.C.
1751 Pinnacle Drive
Suite 500
McLean, Virginia 22102
(703) 903-9000

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By:



Mitchell W. Shapiro
Reg. No. 31,568

Eric G. King
Reg. No. 42,736